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EDITORIAL.

Poor seed corn and a cold June make a discouraging combination.

Did you test your seed corn? If not, the "I-told-you-so" neighbor has a fair chance to talk.

If a little of the time spent drawing unscreened gravel were devoted to raking up and hauling to the stone-crusher the cobble stones and large pieces of gravel now rolling around on the driveway, it would be a move in the direction of true economy.

From the way motor-trucks and pleasure cars stream up and down the highways, leaving long clouds of dust in their wake, and making pedestrian or equine means of locomotion almost unbearable, it looks as though farmers will soon be compelled to use automobiles in self-defence.

The first cutting of alfalfa at Weldwood, removed during the last week of June, made an average of about a ton and a half of cured hay per acre, all coiled up and harvested without rain. On the part of the field seeded with barley the stand was thin, the growth late, and the weeds thick. On the summer-fallowed portion the crop was clean, and must have cut nearly two tons per acre. Dominion Day saw the field nicely tinged with green, though no rain had fallen for ten days or over.

The beauty of the elm tree grows upon one. For combination of stateliness and grace, what specimen can equal it? Individual it stands along the boundary fence or in the pasture field, its giant trunk straight as an arrow, massive, topped with branches drooping at the tips, almost every tree displaying a particular form of its own. Thanks to the minor value of its timber, it has been spared the axe where other trees have fallen. Long may it remain in suitably-selected locations. Spare the elm.

If the Recording Angel keeps a record of crimes committed in the name of road improvement, we should like to look over his list. There must be a great many entries against supervisors who allow coarse gravel to be dumped in heaps or ridges along the highways, without first screening the larger stones. These, if crushed, would make excellent surfacing material. Loose, they find their way to the surface, causing endless annoyance and trouble to vehicles, horses and persons; also, injury to the road itself.

"He used to have quite a lot of horses around, and raised mostly grain and timothy hay, but he never got ahead till he kept cattle." Such was the succinct observation of a country lad the other day, referring to a farmer who is now quite comfortably well off. There is a lot in it. They say, in the West, where long, hard trips are to be made, the ox makes fully as good time as the horse, and stands privation better. In the East we do not need the horned beast for locomotion, but his brother, the steer, and his sister, the cow, are still two great stand-bys of agricultural progress. While returns seem slow, they are pretty sure, and the manurial by-product builds land surprisingly, if carefully saved and applied. It is another case of slow and steady winning the race.

Engaging Rural Teachers.

To a greater extent than in former times the engagement of teachers for the rural public schools dates from the midsummer, rather than the winter vacation. Referring particularly to the Province of Ontario, one reason for this is that the normal schools at the former season send out their quota of certificated additions to the ranks of the teaching profession, and, though new to the work, these are quickly picked up by alert boards of trustees whose schools, unfortunately, for one reason or another, may fall vacant. The choice of a teacher is the most important duty of trustees in promoting the educational interest of the section. Particularly is this so at the present time, when determined efforts are being made to raise the standing of the rural schools, in order to the betterment of the communities whose interests they serve. The very first considerations are those of professional qualification and character. Not how cheap, but how good, is the question. The day of cheese-paring is happily passing. Progressive men now insist on wiser counsels. The remuneration accorded the teacher is one of the gauges whereby the status of a community may be judged. The standards required are higher than formerly, and, in common with other occupations, the preparatory cost has greatly increased. In poorer sections, where the school population is not great, economy may with some force be urged, but even where the attendance is comparatively small, it is better that a good school, with capable teachers, be maintained, than that the scholars should be handicapped probably for the rest of their lives.

In the choice of a teacher for a rural school, preference, by all means, should be given, other things being equal, to a teacher, male or female, brought up in a good farm home, so that one in sympathy with and possessing actual knowledge of country life and its pursuits may be secured. A few sections, too, may be fortunate enough to avail themselves of the services of teachers who have had the advantage of supplementary courses at the agricultural colleges. When the credentials of a teacher of experience are under consideration by the trustees, undue weight should not be attached to success in passing large classes through the high-school entrance examinations, which is sometimes unwisely done, at the expense of proper attention to other classes, particularly younger ones which require the most personal attention.

Perhaps one of the most serious evils afflicting schools is the frequent change of teachers. Circumstances may arise where a change is advisable or necessary to the well-being of the school, but, as a rule, the advantages are distinctly in favor of permanence. Experience has proven this again and again. A good teacher requires time to make his or her impress for good fully felt upon a section. To see the pupils grow from year to year, and develop from class to class, is the true ideal. To become properly acquainted, scholars and teachers require months of time. We are inclined to believe that the localities are few where nowadays a change is suggested on the score of obtaining a lower-priced teacher, who is too often inexperienced. To save a paltry \$50, \$75, or even \$100, years of precious school time have not infrequently been wasted, and incalculable harm done a section. Then, to still further achieve the best results, let teacher, trustees and parents work together as a co-operative society, for the advancement of every scholar within the bounds of the section, and to make the school the best in the district.

What High Feed Prices Mean.

Last winter was noted for the high prices which all kinds of feed brought in the open market, and prices are still high, and from all indications quite likely to be so. What do these high prices mean to the stock farmer? Simply this, if he doesn't feed the right kind of stock, his profits will not be sufficient to pay him for his labor, and there is a possibility of the balance showing on the wrong side of the sheet. Shoveling expensive roughage and concentrates into inferior animals is just as much a waste as allowing crops to spoil in the fields for want of necessary machinery and help to get them harvested. Inferior stock has caused many a feeder to quit the business and join the multitudes who sell their grain, hay, and sometimes even the straw, rather than feed it all winter for nothing but the manure pile, and often this has to be reckoned in the assets to show an even break on the season's business. Nothing drives people out of any business or branch of the business more quickly than small returns.

Every grain-grower, stock or general farmer knows the dissatisfaction and ultimate loss which is necessitated when his farm machinery is inferior. It is just the same when inferior stock is kept. The animal is the machine which converts the raw material into the finished product, and, to be operated at a profit, the machine must be as efficient as it can be made.

High feed prices should cause breeders and feeders to pay more attention to the class of stock kept. Instead of eliminating live-stock altogether, on many farms the tendency should be to eliminate all poor stock and increase the numbers of the higher class of animals. High prices should prove an incentive to breeders to improve their studs, herds and flocks. There is room in Canada for more of the best class of dairy cows, more of the best class of beef cattle, more good bacon hogs, and millions more mutton sheep. There is money in good stock, even if feed prices are high. There is little to be made from scrub stock, even when feed prices are low. The price of feed should then be a factor in our live-stock husbandry, which should serve to promote the cause of the best-bred individuals.

Fodder Prospects.

Critical observers are already prophesying another winter of short feed. In many sections the hay crop is disappointing. Speaking with particular reference to Western Ontario, it is noteworthy that very little new seeding caught well last year, many seeded fields being afterward plowed up. Old meadows have in many localities made poor growth this spring, due, in part, no doubt, to close grazing last summer and fall. In some counties alfalfa was badly winter-killed, while corn, the great reliance with many, has been sadly hit by poor seed and cold weather, more especially by frosty and cold nights, continuing into July. Probably the corn crop still holds surprises in store, but it can hardly be a bumper crop, and, indeed, many fields have been plowed up and resown to crops like millet. With practically no reserves of fodder carried over from last spring, the prospect for bulging mows is not bright, save where conditions are exceptionally favorable, or where superior methods have had play. There should be no cheap hay sold from the fields this summer.